

more heavy guns. This, however, had not been the motive of my proposal. The question for General Cadorna to consider, and on which the Conference desired his opinion, was, if he were lent the guns, could he carry out a really great, or even decisive, operation on behalf of the Allies ? "

General Cadorna replied that

" he could undoubtedly carry out a very great operation with further assistance in heavy guns, but the operation would necessarily be *Cadorna* a very long one. Referring to my memorandum, he pointed out that tactical surprise, under modern conditions, was not practicable. The enemy would unquestionably discover that the guns were being brought to that front."

I said that,

" nevertheless, it would be a certain surprise to the enemy to see the Allies co-operating closely in this way. I did not intend that the attack would be a surprise in the tactical sense, but that our initiative would necessarily dislocate the enemy's plans. I asked what precisely General Cadorna thought that he could accomplish with the guns. I did not ask for an immediate answer, but I wanted to know what he considered he could do,"

General Cadorna stated that

undoubtedly he could
do a good deal more on a wider front, and
he under-
took to consider the question. He then
withdrew
from the Conference.